AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original)

A gene comprising either one of base sequences selected from:

(a) a base sequence described in SEQ ID No: 1,

(b) a base sequence which encodes a protein having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the base sequence is a base sequence in which one or a plural number of base(s) is/are deleted, added or substituted from the base sequence described in SEQ ID No: 1,

(c) a base sequence which encodes a protein having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity and hybridizes with the base sequence described in SEQ ID No: 1 under stringent conditions,

(d) a base sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID No: 2,

(e) a base sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence in which one or a plural number of amino acid(s) is/are deleted, added or substituted from the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID No: 2 and

(f) a base sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxyic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence having 60% or more of homology with the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID No: 2.

Claim 2 (original)

A protein comprising either one of amino acid sequence selected from:

(a) an amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID No: 2,

(b) an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence in which one or a plural number of amino acid(s) is/are deleted, added or substituted from the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID No: 2 and

(c) an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence having 60% or more of homology with the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID No: 2.

Claim 3 (currently amended)

A signal peptide comprising an amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID No: 7 for a resting strain reaction using a protein comprising either one of amino acid sequence selected from:

(a) an amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID No: 2

(b) an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence in which one or a plural number of amino acid(s) is/are deleted, added or substituted from the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID No: 2 and

(c) an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence having 60% or more of homology with the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID No: 2 according to claim 2.

Claim 4 (currently amended)

A DNA which encodes a signal peptide ~~as defined in Claim 3~~ which comprises a base sequence described in SEQ ID No: 8.

Claim 5 (original)

A vector containing the gene according to Claim 1.

Claim 6 (currently amended)

The vector according to Claim 5, wherien said vector further contains the DNA ~~as defined in Claim 4~~ which encodes a signal peptide.

Claim 7 (original)

The vector according to Claim 6, wherein said vector is plasmid Pkk-EnHCHl.

Claim 8 (currently amended)

A transformant containing the gene as defined in Claim 1 ~~or the vector as defined in Claim 5.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended)

A transformant containing the gene as defined in Claim 1 ~~or the vector as defined in Claim 6~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended)

A transformant containing the gene as defined in Claim 1 ~~or the vector as defined in Claim 7~~.

Claim 11 (original)

The transformant according to Claim 8, wherein a host is *E.coli*

Claim 12 (original)

The transformant according to Claim 9, wherein a host is *E.coli*.

Claim 13 (original)

The transformant according to Claim 10, wherein the host is *E.coli*.

Claim 14 (original)

The transformant according to Claim 8, wherein the host is *E.coli* JM109 strain or DH5α strain.

Claim 15 (original)

The transformant according to Claim 9, wherein the host is *E.coli* JM109 strain or DH5α strain.

Claim 16 (original)

The transformant according to Claim 10, wherein the host is *E.coli* JM109 strain or DH5α strain.

Claim 17 (currently amended)

A process for the preparation of ~~the~~ a protein ~~as defined in Claim 2,~~ which encodes a signal peptide which comprises using the gene as defined in Claim 1.

Claim 18 (original)

A process for the preparation of an optically active compound which comprises using the protein as defined in Claim 2.

Claim 19 (original)

A process for the preparation of an optically active compound which comprises using the transformant defined in Claim 8.

Claim 20 (original)

A process for the preparation of an optically active compound which comprises using the transformant defined in Claim 9.

Claim 21 (original)

A process for the preparation of an optically active compound which comprises using the transformant defined in Claim 10.

Claim 22 (new)

A transformant containing the vector of Claim 5.

Claim 23 (new)

A transformant containing the vector of Claim 6.

Claim 24 (new)

A transformant containing the vector of Claim 7.